OTH'S THEATER .-" The Counte Soogah." BOTH'S THEATER.—VARIOUS.

RAGLE TREATER.—VARIOUS.

FIFTH AVENUS THEATER.—" Pique."

LYCKUM THEATER.—" Les Jocrisses de L'Amour."

OLYMPIO THEATER.—VARIOUS.

"Crucible." PARK THEATER.—CHOOSE
SAN FRANCISCO MINSTEELS.
TONT PASTOR'S NEW THEATER.—2 and 8: Variety.
TWENTY-THIRD STREET THEATER.—"The Flatterer."
UNION SQUARE THEATER.—"Rose Michel."
WALLACK'S THEATER.—"Coste."

Association Hall.—Reception. J. H. Rasser. Chickering Hall.—Musical Sofrée. Colosseem.—"Siege of Paris." No. 39 East Tentinest.—Bazaar. Steinway Hall.—Lecture. Prof. R. A. Proctor.

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Business Notices.

Go to Brummell's for your Candus.— Prety thousand pounds at 20 cents to 25 cents. Fire pound boxes from 30 cents to 31 10. 410 Grand-st., N. Y. HAS PAID \$750 a Day, for over nine years, to its Policy holders—PRAYELERS INSCRANCE CO., Hardord.

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Persons unable to obtain THE TRUBUNE in any of the trains, boats, or holels in which it is usually sold, will confer a favor by informing this office of the circumstances.

THE SEMI-WREELY TRIBUNE will be ready this morning at 8 o'clock, in wrappers for mailing. Price 5 cents.

Advertisements for this week's issue of THE WEEKLY FRIBUNE must be banded in To-Day. Price \$2 per line. Up town advertisers can leave their favors for THE THRU at 1.233 Broadway, cor. 31st-st., or 308 W. 23d-st., cor. 8th at

New-Dork Daily Tribune. FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1875.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.-The Alfonsist Gen. Moriones purposed relieving San Schastian and Hernani.

Centennial Exhibition Commissioners met in Paris.

The Hamburg steamer Suevia was slightly disabled by a collision. = Capt.-Gen. Valmaseda resigned. Domestic.-In Congress yesterday Speaker Kerr

announced the House Committees; Mr. Ferry was reelected President pro tem. of the Senate until Jan. 7: both Houses adjourned to Jan. 5. ___ Auditor Thayer was examined before the Canal Commission, and admitted purchasing certificates that he had to audit. = The \$30,000 race in California was fixed for Feb. 22. ____ Intense cold prevailed in the North, in New-Hampshire and in some parts of Canada, the thermometer being from 35° to 40°

CITY AND SUBURBAN.-Further delays occurred in the Brooklyn Ring suits, and the plan of making arrests and attachments was abandoned. ==== The On the application of 205 creditors, representing \$2,168,142 49, Judge Blatchford declared Duncan, Sherman & Co. involuntary bankrupts. === The trunk line managers decided that New-York and Boston freight rates to the West should be equal. The Tammany General Committee issued an address to New-York Democrats. - Prof. Proctor lectured in Brooklyn on "Other Worlds than Ours." === The inquest in the Alexander murder case was begun. ___ Gold, 1135s, 1135s, 1138s. Gold value of the legal-tender dollar at the close, 68 210 cents.

THE WEATHER.-The Government report predicts threatening weather, with occasional snow or rain.

Broken savings banks proceeds, more evidence is found that casts discredit upon the officers. The deficiencies in the funds of the People's worse than bad management.

audited, and he says simply, "After some 18 "or 19 days, I paid myself." With such facts in view, a technical defense of the Auditor will not have much weight with the public.

A large and varied display of French products may be expected at the Centennial Exhibition, since the Commissioners at Paris have allotted space to more than 2,000 applicants. This number nearly equals that of all the foreign exhibitors at the Exhibition in this city in 1853, and affords promise that many Frenchmen will be among the visitors.

obstacle to Brooklyn reform.

Despite the vague terms in which Captain-General Valmaseda gives his reasons for resigning, it is understood that he leaves Cuba because the Spanish Government was dissatisfied with his course in regard to Señor Rubi, who was empowered to supervise the Cuban finances. Valmaseda refused to credit the charges of fraud which that official made against one of his staff, and when the matter was referred to the Government at Madrid it was intimated to

205 creditors preferring the processes of the thing in giving Mr. Payne high rank in the Bankruptcy Court. This will also cause the many suits brought against the firm in State courts to be enjoined. The questions as to the validity of transfers of property, made by the firm shortly before the date of their suspension, will of course be considered by the referee in to determining what constitutes the

A feeling of doubt, almost amounting to anxiety, has been generally felt respecting the new docks partially constructed along the city's water front. That the old docks were weak, rotten, discreditable structures, nobody questioned. Whether the new ones, admitted to be experiments, were firmly built below the water surface, might well be doubted when an engineer in charge had reported the work as crumbling to pieces. The very eminent engi- elected them. Some of them bring repuneers whose partial report on the subject is now presented, revive better bopes. The structure is imperfect, but by no means worthless. With proper precautions it can be made useful. made, and that the work will be rapidly pushed forward; its success is one of the elements upon which New-York's prosperity de-

Let us hope that no more mistakes will be SPEAKER KERE'S COMMITTEES. It would have been too much to expect that the appointments of the Standing Committees of the House by Speaker Kerr would give entire satisfaction to either friends or foes. He has taken what may be fairly reckoned abundant time to go over his lists with care, and make as judicious and wise selections as were possible from the Congress the people had given him to choose from. The perfect honesty of his work is clear. The absolute courage with which he has met its difficulties is clear. And, unfortunately, his lack of tact and ignorance of the multifarious details which a successful Speaker is bound to know are just as clear as either. There has never been an honester thing done in the Speaker's chair than Mr. Kerr's refusal to appoint Mr. Fernando Wood to the chairmanship of Ways and Means, and the consequent leadership of the House. There has rarely been more bravery shown than in the disappointments meted out with equal hand to Mr. Wood, and to two or three other conspicuous leaders, who have it in their power to make Mr. Kerr's position a most unenviable one, if not indeed to break him down altogether. The appointment of Mr. Morrison to the chairmanship of the Ways and Means Committee involved courage also of a certain sort, but the fitness of it is yet to be shown. Mr. Morrison was next to the last member of the Committee on War Claims in the last Congress, and there was no complaint from his party that he did not receive sufficient recognition. He was in ill health, however, and was absent from the House a good deal. He has been an earnest advocate of hard money, has always been counted a thoroughly honest man, and has always been esteemed and liked by his associates. We have never heard a word to his discredit, and in times past have heard many words in his praise. But still it may be fairly said that unless Mr. Morrison surprises the country with his capacity the country will hardly forgive Mr. Kerr the surprise of his appointment. We have to thank the Speaker for his disposition of Mr. Wood. Doubtless the Adminisunwisdom. tration organs which had their index fingers lifted to point at Wood as a specimen Reformer, in case he had been placed at the head of Ways and Means, will be bountifully indignant at the slight put upon him. The Speaker and his party can afford to contemplate that exhibition with philosophy. It will not hurt. It is not likely that Mr. Cox is entirely satisfied. Everybody will be sorry that he is not. Everybody likes him. And yet -it may be that Mr. Kerr has done well here, even though Mr. Cox has been disappointed. Mr. Cox has made special study of finance; his speeches show knowledge of its elementary Committee of Engineers appointed to examine de- principles, and unwillingness to be lured way from them by greenback sophis-

tries or partisan appeals. The country, we think, will have reason to be satisfied with his work. The Committee on Civil Service Reform seems safe and strong; though he would be a bold man who should predict much genuine work from either party in this direction in the present condition of politics, and on the eve of the Presidential campaign. The Committee on Rules is as good as it could be made. That on Railways and Canals seems fair, and it would probably be safe against subsidies of any sort even without the recent vote of the House. The Committee on Pacific Railways hardly looks

so safe. In fact, a suspicious person might

incline to think that Col. Scott, with

an attorney of the Southern Pacific, and

three or four other friends and well-

wishers on the Committee, had reason to be

satisfied. The Judiciary is not a strong Com-

mittee, and some of the other impor-

tant ones show extraordinary weaknesses.

Contrasted with the fine knowledge of human

nature, the intimate acquaintance with the

aptitudes of different members, and the in-

terests of different districts, which Mr. Blaine

displayed, the result is not encouraging. What

can be said, for example, of placing a small

West Virginia lawyer at the head of

the Committee on Commerce, giving to

the entire Atlantic coast but two rep-

resentatives on it, and ignoring a

leading New-York merchant (elected by the

Speaker's own party), of stainless character,

and most experienced importers in the

United States, probably surpassed in this city

sort of use is it, of the material at his disposal,

not on Commerce, where he would naturally

belong, or on Banking and Currency, for which

he might be thought to have some special

sometimes meets once a session and sometimes

does not) on Weights and Measures?

his case, he is also placed on the Committee

Abram S. Hewitt of this city is clearly the

class business man, of large experience, and

training

would qualify him, but-

=== In this city yesterday the weather was cold but moderating, and without wind; thermometer, 100, 170, 260. As the examination of the accounts of the

and Third Avenue banks point to something Aud'tor Thayer's testimony confirms what has been alleged against him. He admits that he had bought the certificates which he

Further delay in the service of papers in the suits against the Brooklyn officials and contractors has resulted from the need of making inquiries into the responsibility to be assumed by the tax-payers and the impolicy of impleading Congressman Bliss with the other defendants. It is, of course, necessary in suits of this kind that a few men should patriotically assume grave responsibility for the general good, and this necessity has been a standing

him that he ought to resign.

Judge Blatchford's decision declaring Mesers. Duncan, Sherman & Co. involuntary bank- short, a man having the same class of Government at Buda-Pesth, allying themselves

Committee on Banking and Currency. Precisely similar rank to Mr. Hewitt, on Appropriations, Ways and Means, Banking and Currency, or some of the other most important business committees. Instead of this, Mr. Hewitt is placed fifth on Public Buddings and mistake purposely, of course; he simply did not know batter. But there a 3 many excuses to be made

disappointment at the cast of the Committees. Here in the first place is a Congress made up largely of new men; of men who have never served in Congress; whose capacities. are therefore untried; of whom nothing is known beyond the constituencies that tations, it is true, but reputations which are purely local, and upon which a presiding officer can place little dependence in the serious business of constituting the committees, which are the working force, the real machinery of Congress. All these have their friends, and their friends have most exalted notions of their qualifications. The members themselves have had no opportunities for comparison, and it is mittees. Whether they do or not, they and their friends are pretty sure to be disappointed. Then, too, it must not be forgotten that here comes a party into power which when it was in power twenty years ago was so simply because of the numbers and influence of the Slave State representatives, and that when they withdrew it fell into a hopeless minority and remained there for fifteen years. It is a party that for these fifteen years has had none of the educating influences which necessarily come to those who hold the reins and are responsible to the people for the conduct of the Government. It has been in a position where it could afford to be carping and critical, reckless, audacious, irresponsible. That has become as habit. According to the ideas and theories upon which political parties are managed, that has been its business. It must be confessed, it has been devoted to it; and it is plain enough that the practice has grown into a fixed habit, of which it will and the musical glasses, but on Eastfind it difficult to rid itself. There is then a great difficulty in placing upon committees the men who have had experience, and who are known as old members. In this Congress they almost come into a new vocation. Whatever they may have done in a minority, however much they may have skipped about and made the majority unhappy, they have not shown the qualifications essential in the leaders and managers of a dominant party. So that with the old members as well as with the new, Speaker Kerr had difficulty in assigning positions, and on all hands he was embarrassed. Under these circumstances great allowance should be made by those who believe they could have done better than he. There is a certain judicial quality in the public opinion that will scan and weigh these appointments; that will not run to pronounce upon them, but will wait in patience for time to show their wisdom or

TAXES IN NEW-JERSEY.

Thrifty New-Jersey next begins to wonder where the taxes will stop. Mr. J. R. Freese of Trenton, a large tax-payer, has been ransacking the public documents of the State Library, and with these melancholy results:

The disbursements from the State Fund-a fund which excludes all the expenses from the war, schools, etc., and includes only the cost of running the government-have increased extraordinarily between 1860 and 1875. Here are the figures in a nutshell:

Disbursements for ordinary expenses, .\$135,496 86 Disbursements for extraordinary ex-

Total fer 1860...... \$200,993 44 1875.

Disbursements for ordinary expenses. \$863,416 54

New Lunatic Asylum. 603,000 00

Temporary loan retired. 150,000 00

Total for 1875 61,61%, 116 51 And a more melancholy fact is this: New-Jersey, like a prodigal, is wasting her estate. Her treasury has, or did have, a valuable line of stocks and bends as an asset. At one time the income of these paid all the expenses of the State. Now this deposit is yearly diminished-not to pay up the war or other debt, but to meet current expenses. In 1873 the Treasurer sold of these assets for this purpose \$350,000, and in 1874, \$410,000. These figures may seem small to New-Yorkers, who are used to the contemplation of worse budgets, but they are receiving the anxious attention of our thrifty neighbors.

THE EASTERN QUESTION. The discussion of the Turkish question has received a fresh impetus since England laid her hand upon the Saez Canal. One view of the effect of Mr. Disraeli's master-stroke is that England, having secured her communications with her Indian possessions and obtained in a manner a reversionary interest in the best portion of the Ottoman Empire, has got in advance more than her proper share in any future partition of the Sick Man's estate, and can afford to look with indifference upon whatever disposition Russia and Austria may who at the time of his recent retirement make of the remainder. A sensible way from business was among the heaviest of looking at the matter, it would seem at first thought, but there is quite another side to the question. A recent article in The by only A. T. Stewart and H. B. Claffin? What Pall Mall Gazette quotes Disraeli's saying that "England is a great Mohammedan power," which leads the Speaker to place such a man, and argues that she is therefore vitally interested in whatever affects her millions of Mussulman subjects. The Sultan may not consent to be deprived of even the little province of fitness, or on any of the leading Herzegovina without a desperate struggle. He business committees, for which his may in a spirit of despair revive the dormant fanaticism of the followers of the Prophet and of all possible places-on the Committee (which | kindle a religious war against Christian aggression that might involve serious possibilities to the dependencies of Great Britain from This insignificant Committee is further Aden to Farther India. If this be the view of strengthened by the addition of Prof. the English Cabinet we shall see the influence Seelye, but, with a better sense of fitness in of England once more exerted to maintain intact the dead-alive empire of the Sultan. In on Indian Affairs. The disposition of Mr. any case it would seem that the Continental Powers which have been trying to agree upon result of simple ignorance. Here is a first- a plan for the settlement of the Herzegovinian question must now ask the opinion of a nation widely-recognized ability, belonging to the that they have not thought of enough account, reform element in the Democracy which the of late, to be invited to their councils.

Speaker is most anxious to encourage, of The position of Austria in the matter is stainless personal integrity, and of that curiously complicated by the strong repageasy private fortune which at once enables nance of the Magyar element in Hungary to such a man to devote himself unreservedly to the annexation of territory inhabited by a the public service, and removes him from Slavic population. The provinces of Croatia the suspicion of improper motives; in and Slavonia are a thorn in the side of the the estate on the terms offered by Mr. Duncan; Cleveland. The Speaker did an excellent seeks to deprive Hungary of her late-regained

autonomy and constitutional liberty. Should the adjacent Turkish provinces of Bosnia and the same motives should have led him to accord Herzegovina fall to the share of Austria, as they unquestionably would if the Turkish Empire were dismembered, the Hungarian statesmen see that they would be flanked by a Slavic population as large as the dominant Magyar element in Hungary; a Grounds! The Speaker did not make such a population with strong Russian affinities, with no experience or approciation of liberal government, and with intense race animosities, ready to forward any scheme for the restoration of the ancient Hapsburg despotism, which for such lapses, and fr any general withstood the revolution of 1848, but was broken by the fortunate outcome of the Prussian war. Just now the Hungarian influence,

through the premiership of Count Andrassy,

controls the policy of the Vienna Government,

but it has to contend with the intrigues of the

so-called "Slavonias Court Party," which is believed to have the sympathy of the Emperor. While waiting for the diplomats of Europe to dispose of their little country, the insurgents in Herzegovina appear to be not only holding their own but gaining ground. At Constantinople such preparations for suppressing the rebellion when the Spring opens as the bankrupt Government of the Porte can make, appear to be on foot. If the patriots have really found a competent leader in Lazzaro Socica, very much a matter of chance whether as the correspondent of The London Times at they fall into their proper places upon com- Cettinge believes, they may be able to hold out until they force a recognition of their claims. Those who expect to see them crushed by the armies about to march against them should read the history of Scanderbeg, Prince of Albania, who revolted in the fifteenth century, when the Turkish Empire was in its zenith, and held his mountain fastnesses for more than twenty years against the enormous power of the most warlike of the Ottoman Sultans.

HOLIDAY BUYINGS. People who have any spare dollars to spend in this last week before the holidays, it might be supposed, would find the spending easy work, especially if they meant to purchase furniture, clothes, or ornament of any kind for the person or house. But it is this spending which troubles seven-eighths of the buyers who read the flaming advertisements of THE TRIBUNE. It is the fashion now to dress or furnish your dwelling artistically. Popular small talk does not run on Shakespeare lake and Morris's wall-paper. The situation, however elevated, is trying for good folk who are not artistic by birth or education. Amelia, who was married the other week, may be capable of the highest virtues as wife or housekeeper; but her taste, as everybody knows, is abominable. A year or two ago she could have left dress and farniture to mantua-maker and upholsterer; but now her friends, with souls attuned to art, inveigh against these good folk as "work people," and declare that there must be Meaning, Beauty, Harmony, in her polonaises and teapots. What is she to do?

She can pay money down for polonaise or pot, but Meaning and Harmony are things quite invisible to her. She hears of certain 'artists" who will make pictures of her and her house, but the charge for the invisible meaning and harmony is treble that of the actual material. Nobody is of the same mind in the matter, either. D. sneers at A.'s florid house and its brie-à-brac, and A. shivers at the classic severity of D.'s chill apartments. Yet everybody is absolutely right and never could be wrong. She takes up the popular articles in Scribner on Beds and Tables; here surely is the alphabet, something practical! But she finds hints that this stool is charming or that stove suggestive, and advice not to follow anybody's dictum, but to fall back on principles, when she has no principles, or to go to a famous architect or dealer when she has no money.

The most practical advice we can give Amelia, or the thousands like her, who will set out this week to buy clothes, furniture, or ornament, is not to be bewildered by the outery about resthetic taste in any of these things. A very little study will give her the rules of shape and combination of color. After that, let her one rule be to buy precisely what best serves her own peculiar purpose, and to put "effect" totally out of sight. She buys a street dress; she wants it warm, comfortable, unobtrusive, short enough to clear the ground. She buys a home dress, for the evenings when Tom or the neighbors gather about the fireplace-she wants it soft, clinging, a certain sweep in the drapery, a dark color that will bear a bright knot of ribbon, or a rose in the hair or breast. Or is it furniture that she goes out to buy, for this same living room to which they all gather in the evening? The "effect" of a dozen stylish chairs all alike she thinks is tempting, but she considers actual need and sends home a cozy little sewing chair for herself, a lounge for Tom, a big, easy padded snuggery for grandfather, and one or two odd ones to make out the number; she buys a big round table for work and books instead of a nest of Chinese teapoys. And she hangs a curtain here or sets a screen there to keep off draughts, and so on, consulting actual need and service; and when she is done her friends cry out that the room is artistic and has Harmony, etc., etc. For after all the secret of beauty is exact adaptation to use, regardless of conventional forms. and the woman who has a definite aim or meaning in a dress or room, and keeps that strictly in view, will waken up when the work is done to find that the work is that of an artist, although she never handled brush or pencil, nor ever knew a cornice from a dado, or faience from Wedgewood ware.

A Congressman vouches for the following as an actual conversation between two new members of the majority, which he could not help hearing the other day in the House restaurant. After some comparison of domestic arrangements for the session, A. inquired: "What have you done about your washing f" "Oh," said B., "I have made an excellent arrangement for that. I have got a firstrate negro woman, a real good woman, I think, and have made a bargain with her for the season at a dollar a dozen!" "Well," responded A., "I am not quite certain whether my arrangement is as cheap as that or not. I have made a bargain with a oman to do all my washing for the session for a dollar and a half a month; but I'll watch it for the first month, and if I find your bargain is cheaper, I'll try and get your woman to do min Speaker Kerr ought to have been informed of this conversation in time for his Committees. If these two men are not put on the Ways and Means, gress injustice will be done to the financial genius

This evening the works of art contributed by the payment of its mortgage debt are to be sold at the Academy. Among them are examples of many of our most prominent living artists, Church, McEntee, Whittredge, Bierstadt, Eastman Johnson, Huntington, and many others of our best men, besides works from Kensett, Boughton and others, contributed by friends. The artists deserve the hearty sympathy and support of the art-loving public in this manly of the support of the art-loving public in this manly of the support of the art-loving public in this manly of the support of the art-loving public in this manly of the support of the art-loving public in this manly of the support of the art-loving public in this manly of the support of the art-loving public in this manly of the support of the art-loving public in this manly of the support of the art-loving public in this manly of the concert was by the Thomas orchestra, which played, as it alone can, the lat "Leonora" over which have characterized the operations of the Spanish forces there. As long as Spain continues to let us alone to the played, as it alone can, the lat "Leonora" over which have characterized the operations of the Spanish forces there. As long as Spain continues to let us alone we are bound by every principle of honesty and honor to the people generated the operations of the Spanish forces there. As long as Spain continues to let us alone to the protest against the barbarities which have characterized the operations of the Spanish forces there. As long as Spain continues to let us alone to the protest against the barbarities which have characterized the operations of the Spanish forces there. As long as Spain continues to let us alone to the protest against the barbarities which have characterized the operations of the Spanish forces there. As long as Spain continues to let us alone to the protest against the barbarities which have characterized the operations of the Spanish forces there. As long as Spain continues to let us alone the protest against the barbarities which have characterized the operatio members of the National Academy of Design for the rapts, puts an end to the prospect of settling qualifications with Mr. Henry B. Payne of with the reactionary party at Vienna, that by friends. The artists deserve the hearty sympathy

effort, in the midst of business depressions, to raise a fund to pay off their debt; and it is much to be hoped that the bidding to-night will be as lively as the cause is deserving.

An unfortunate person who has just committed suicide in New-Bedford, Mass., left upon his table a poem in the following stage of construction: " This life--tears that flow

Here evidently was the making of a fine couplet at least; indeed, long poems have been written without much more in them than we have here. This deceased person had poetical feelings, but apparently lacked the poet's hand. Possibly his suicide was hastoned by despair at his inability to express himself; but they don't all do so, by any means.

Ex-Senator William A. Richardson of Illinois s dangerously ill with a stroke of paralysis, at his home n Quincy.

Gen. Lane, candidate for Vice-President in 1860, is now a farmer in Oregon. His son is a Represent-ative in Congress from the same State.

President Porter of Yale College will deliver an address on "Seience and Sentiment," before the Massachusetts Teachers' Association in Boston, on the 28th

Mr. M. D. Conway has been invited to deliver the address before the literary societies of Dickinson College, his Alma Mater, but has been obliged to decline, as he will return to Europe before the next Commence

A Chicago grand jury has refused to indict Wilbur F. Storey, editor of The Chicago Times, for libel, in charging that Senator Logan pretended to be sick in order to escape an examination that would show his comolicity with the Whisky Ring. The jury declared there

was insufficient legal ground for an indictment. Mr. Donald G. Mitchell's plans have been dopted partially by the Connecticut Centennial Com mittee in building a house to represent their State at the Centennial Exhibition. The house will be a quaint old structure, two stories high, with portice in front, and a long, sloping back roof. Its external walls will be of plaster and shingle, with the old-fashioned cross beams the plaster predominating in some sections. A wide, rather low, almost bulging stone chimney hightens the old-time appearance of the structure. The State coat-ofarms appears as a biazon on the outer east wall. Inside, the house consists of a single story, with an overhanging gallery to relieve any barn-like effect in its large recep

POLITICAL NOTES.

The few third-term organs are unanimous in nouncing the anti-third-term resolution of the House as a " piece of impertment intermeddling.

tests against any scheme, such as it now believes to be hatching at Washington, for the acquisition of another sites of Mexican territory.

The Chicago and St. Louis newspapers have hegun to quarrel about the place of holding the National Convention next year. St. Louis thinks it has the best hall in the country for the purpose, and Chicago is amazed that any other city than itself should be thought of for a moment.

The Republican editors of New-Jersey are doing their duty once more by nominating Senator Frelinghnysen for the Presidency. The Boonton Weekly Bulletin sets him down as the "peer of the leading-statesmen of the country, both as to honesty and capaility," and asks the people to look him over and see if they can find a better man.

The election of ex-Indian Commissioner with to the Presidency of Howard University has exited universal amazement. The general opinion seems to be fairly expressed by The Philadelphia Inquirer : As President of Howard University, Mr. Smith enters apon a new field of labor in which we wish him success but it does seem rather hard upon the University.

The latest opposition to the two-thirds rule of the National Democratic Convention comes from an unexpected quarter. The Cincinnati Enquirer says the rule "kills all the candidates whose abilities cutific them to the honor of being considered," calls to the front a "so-called compromise candidate—an unknown man, whom nobody favored," and whom the party is expected to support after he is nominated. The nominations under this rule are, in The Enquirer's opinion, " political frauds."

Senator Morton's proposition to investigate the Mississippi election does not create enthusiasm in that State. The Vicksburg Herald says: "Senator Morton is already at work. His political wisdom for the last ten years has been to meddle with the South. Why not neddle with the North awhile ! He wants a committee of five sent to investigate the Mississippi election. Why not also send a committee to Ohio and Pennsylvania I If Mississippi is reconstructed, to send such committee is an impertinence; if she is not reconstructed, let Mr. Moron and his Rudical colleagues declare the fatiure and

baye done with it." The adoption of the anti-third-term resoluothers that it has little if any significance. The Chicago Tribune, the newspaper which assounded the country a short time ago with the brilliant suggestion that the President retire now and be renominated in 1881, thinks the resolution puts the question out of politics, and adds: Meanwhile it is sad to contemplate how many Demoratic orators have been nipped in the bad, and how many Democratic editorials will be still-born, on ac count of the summary disposition of the third-term for any further agitation of the third-term question. Grant says he doesn't want a third term, and everybody else has declared that there is no intention of forcing it upon him, so that we can't see how this question can cut

ny more figure in the political literature of the day." MUSIC.

MME. STERLING'S CONCERT.

The concert arranged for Madame Sterling last night at Steinway Hall was a becoming compliment to a singer whom we are all glad to honor, not only for a rrice natural gifts and the many successes she on, but for the fine artistic sense which has directed her whole career, and the noble ambition which spurs er always onward. We can hardly think of any other singer who would have ventured such a programme as she chose for this farewell performance. contained no show-pieces, and, if we except some good English and Scotch ballads, such as Barnby's "When the Tide comes in," it had nothing even of the so-called contarclass. But Mme. Sterling's courage was justified by the event, for the audience proved to be appreciative, and the most serious work of the evening seemed to be heartily enjoyed. Nearly all the vocal selections were fresh. The first was a recliative and aris ("Then ometh Jesus from Galilee," and "In the Beginning was the Word") from Macfarren's "St. John the tist," an excellent specimen of modern English oratorio music which Mme. Sterling delivered with great dignity and sweetness. Barnby's favorite ballad followed. In the second part of the concert the singer gave us a group of no fewer than seven lieder, representing all the greatest of the German song-writers, besides two whose place perhaps is not yet quite fixed. The first of the seven was Beethoven's "Wonne der Wehmuth," and this was succeeded by Schu "The Quail's Note," Schumanu's bert's ich früh." Raff's "Sei still." Mendelssohn's "Neue Liebe," Liezt's "Es muss ein Wunderbares sein," and Rubinstein's "Gelb rollt mir zu Füssen. It was a dangerous experiment to try so many, but it was the most marked success of the evening, Mme. Sterling being cordially applauded after each song and recalled twice at the end. This happy result was owing in part to the charming manner in which the songs were rendered and in part to a wis choice of pieces. The pathos and melancholy of Beethoven were relieved by the cheerfulness of Schubert's Wachtelschlag," and this contrasted well with the rutic nalveté of the rolksliedchen from Schumann, and the fairy fancy of Mendelssohn. Raff is not known in our concert-rooms as a song-writer, and the specimen Mme Beethoven in its spirit, that we shall be eager to know more of his work in this branch of art. The Liszt song is simple, rhythmical, and full of feeling, and we can say about the same thing of the selection from Rubinstein. Later, Muse. Sterling gave her favorite Scotch song, "Caller Herrin'," and (for an encore) a remarkable delivery of another song, "The year that's awa'," with-

fine remanza for the violin by Max Bruch, with orehea accompaniment. And so we had that rarest of good things, a testimonial concert without one dull number on the programme or one indifferent performer.

Mme. Sterling sails for Europe to-morrow. All lovers of art will wish her a safe voyage and a quick return.

WHO BHALL SING "ELSAT" To the Editor of The Tribune. Sin: A meeting was held te-day at the

EVENING Post Building to project unanimously against the "Lohengrin" performance at the Academy. There were about 30-40 gentlemen assembled all with the with the present cast. It was resolved that a notice of this should be sent to the Director, Ad. Neuendorff (and this should be sent to the Director, Ad. Neuendorff (and to The Tribune) in which it is said, whether Mile. Pappenheim sings on Wednesday the "Elsa" or it should come to a rumor at the Academy, but the meeting hopes that Mr. Neuendorff will be gentleman enough to do justice to the people. Therefore I think Mr. Neuendorff should take notice of this resolution and bring out "Lohengrin" with Mile. Pappenheim in the cast which will undoubtedly more succeed than Mine. Wagner. Hoping that you will open the columns of your worthy paper for these few lines I am yours very respectfully, Neue-Tork, Dec. 20, 1875. K. S. VENDIGEN.

DEFECTIVE DOCK WALLS.

EXAMINING WORK ON THE NORTH RIVER. PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE ENGINEERS' COM-MITTER APPOINTED BY THE MAYOR-THE MODE OF CONSTRUCTION UNCERTAIN IN ITS RESULIS-DEFECTS IN THE BULKHEAD WALLS AT CANAL

AND KING-STS.

The Committee appointed by Mayor Wickham in September last to investigate the condition of the bulkhead walls at the foot of Canal and King-sts., North River, has submitted a preliminary report. After the appointment of Henry F. Dimock and Salem H. Wales as Dock Commissioners, the Board resolved upon an examnation of the wall of the new docks, which had been constructed under the supervision of Gen. Charles K. Graham, Chief Engineer of the Department, upon plans which had been nitered by the Board from those used by Gen. George B. McClellan. Gen. Grah m soon afterward resigned, and George S. Greene, Jr., was appointed to succeed him. On Sept. 16, Engineer Greene reported the resuits of his examination of the bulkhead walls at King and Canal-sts, stating that he had found the walls crumbling away in many places, and that the facts ascertained "indicated clearly that the plan of building the wall of concrete placed under the water en masse could not be relied upon to produce a permanent, stable, and desirable wall." A few days later the Mayor appointed a committee of engineers to investigate the walls still further, and the following is the preliminary report they submit:

and the following is the preliminary report they submit:

To the Commissioners of Docks, New-York City.

GENTLEMEN: We have the honor to submit this preliminary report with respect to the condition of the bulkhead walls at the foot of Canal and King-st., North
River, upon which our opinion was solicited.

On the receipt of the Mayor's communication we
immediately entered on our duties, and commenced an
examination of the King-st. and Canal-st. bulkheads, the
Department of Docks having newtonals vanic a shaft in On the receipt of the Mayor's communication we immediately entered on our duties, and commenced as examination of the King-st. and Canal-st. bulkheads, the Department of Docks having previously sunk a shart in the center of the King-st. bulkhead, and constructed and placed a three-sided caleson against its face. We have now, with the aid of two divers, made a thorough examination of all the exposed faces of both bulkheads, the examination of important points being by two divers at different times, thereby checking their reports. The water has been pumped out of the caleson and the shaft at King-st, and we have made a personal examination of the exterior face and center of the wall. We have also had a shaft sunk in the center of the Canal-st wall, and have had a caleson constructed there, in which we are making trial of concrete construction under as mearly as possible the same conditions as those under which the bulkhead was made; in fact a model on a large scale of the wall itself. When the concrete shall have become sufficiently set the caleson will be readily examined. We are also having experiments made of the comparative set and strength of concrete can be readily examined. We are also having experiments made of the comparative set and strength of concrete of Portland and Rosendale cements, in the position and under the circumstances obtaining in the construction of the bulkhead. All these experiments require time for the setting of the cement, and are at present incomplete. We cannot, therefore, at present give a full answer to all the queries proposed, but in answer to your first interrogatory, "the face's as to the conditions of such structures, together with your opinion as to their safety and durability." We would respectfully report that, from all our examinations, we find that the mode of construction along test, in cencertion with the details, appliances, and materias used, is uncertain in its r suits.

We have found that the component parts of the concrete, or of pockets in spaces in the concrete.

structures, we think it may be remedied without any removal of structure or any large expenditure. We would propose, at any rate, to leave it as it is for the present.

We do not wish to be understood as condemning, as a system, the method of constructing subnarine massorry by passing freshly mixed concrete through and depositing it in the water. On the contrary, it is well known that excellent work can be executed in that manner, under suitable precautions in respect to the quality of the cement used, the proportions of the cement to the coarse ingredients, the kind of apparatus employed in laying it, and the care with which it is operated. Our criticisms will be more fully set forth in our final report, and will refer to the details of the method of construction adopted for the Canal and Klug-st, sections. Our final report, which will give in thil all the facts obtained tion adouted for the Canai and King-st. sections. Our final report, which will give in tuil all the facts obtained in our examinations, with the results of our experiments, will be completed within the coming month. In it we will endeavor to give satisfactory answers to all the interregations submitted to us, and we suggest that nothing be done in the mean time toward completing those portions of the walls for which the pile foundation has been wholly or partially prepared. Very respectfully, your obedient servants,

New-York, Dec. 17, 1875.

Very-Tork, Dec. 17, 1875.

On the facts of our experiments, with the facts of our experiments, and the facts of our experiments, with the facts of our experiments, and the

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FREDERICK S. STALLKNECHT.

Frederick S. Stallknecht, a member of the legal firm of Stallknecht, Hall & McMahon, died at his residence in this city on Saturday. He was born in Denmark, and at the time of his death was in the fifty-sixth year of his age. He was educated in the schools of Copenhagen, where he exhibited proficiency in acquiring the languages. It was intended by his father that he should be an apothecary, but he ran away from home when 16 or 17 years old and came to this city. Soor after he went to Boston and entered Harvard University. remaining in the classes three years, when he came to New-York and entered the law office of Judge Kent. He was admitted to the bar in 1845, and had a large practice among the Germans. His reputation as an abla and trustworthy lawyer was always high, and his integrity unblemished. No less for his personal qualities than for his professional was Mr. Stallknecht esteemed as a true-hearted, scholarly gentleman. He was a remarkably fine linguist, and at various times gave lectures relating to geography, and in regard to ceramic art. He was the Tammany nominee for Judge of the Marine Court at the last election, and, as the first Scandinavian ominated for high office in this city, received a large support from his countrymen, but shared in the general failure of his ticket. He leaves a wife and five children. His funeral will take place from No. 42 West Thirtysecond-st. this afternoon.

PUBLIC OPINION.

Every hour the political development of the situation demonstrates with irresh emphasis the supreme stupidity and want of political sagueity of those adven-turers who have been scheming, rambling, and plotting for a third-party movement.—[Philadelphia Press (Rep.]

Morton has determined to make his colleagues come squarely up to the old line, swallow the old ereed, and treat the South after the old fashion-lik's aconquered province, at the mercy of the conquerors. We hope and believe that he will find them exceedingly nackward in coming forward.—[St. Louis Republican (Ind.)]

We do not know a Democratic politician who is not electioneering for Grant for the next Republican candidate. They have been at it for some months, and are in the nabit of demonstrating, by a peculiar precess of their own, that the Republicans must nominate Grant. They always begin by counting for him all the Southern States—and all the office-holders.—[Cincinnati Commercial (Ind.)

Ex-Gov. Henry S. Foote, Dr. Sam. Bard, and c.x-tov. Henry S. Foote, Dr. Sam. Bard, and Col. Mosby are all out in favor of Grant for a third term, with Sargeant Bates yet to hear from. With the giganto influence of all four of these great President-makers wielded in fils behalf, the election of Grant for a third term may be considered as inevitable as if it bore "The stamp of fate—the sanction of a god."—[Louisyille Courley-Journal (Dem.)

rier-Journal (Dem.)

Mr. Lamar has been the pattern of a true Southern man who has accepted the situation, who has buried his dead out of his sight, and turned his whole attention to a resuscitated and rehabilitated country. We desire most sincerely to see Mississippi send to the United States Senate one of her moblest sona, one of the ablest sons of the whole South, the Hon. L. Q. C. Lamar.—[Atlanta Herald (Dem.)